



Vanguard

For an Independent Australia and Socialism

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Vanguard expresses the viewpoint of the Communist Party of Australia (Marxist - Leninist)

The only choice is struggle

by Alice M.

What can the working people expect when the dust settles after the 7th September Federal parliamentary elections?

Will the casualisation, insecure work and loss of jobs be stopped?

Will the offshoring of jobs out of Australia be stopped?

Will the offensive by big business and monopoly corporations on workers' hard won wages, working conditions and union rights cease, or even be rolled back?

Will the cuts to public spending on health, education, community services and benefits stop?

Will the rising cost of housing, utilities, child care and food be reined in?

Will the disappearing manufacturing and technological industries be rebuilt?

Will the rural communities' livelihoods and the environment be protected from plunder by the multinational mining corporations?

Will the profits bloated mining corporations and banks be made to pay a superprofits tax?

Will the privatisation of a few remaining public assets stop?

Will a genuine Treaty be made with Australia's Aboriginal people?

Everybody knows the answer is a resounding NO.

In fact, whichever major political party is in government the attacks on workers' rights, unions and working conditions will escalate.

That's because the main job of bourgeois parliament and its two main political parties is to make the economic and political system of monopoly capitalism work.

The Business Council of Australia, the Minerals Council and Murdoch, representing the local and foreign monopoly corporations, are at the core of the ruling class that rules and owns Australian parliaments.

They issue instructions and directives to their lackeys in parliament to step up attacks on the working class to enable big



Coal seam gas protesters greet cyclists on the Lakes Oil sponsored Tour of Gippsland through Sale Peoples' struggles like this will intensify

business to squeeze more profits from the labour of workers (productivity).

They demand that the economic crisis of monopoly capitalism is shifted on to the backs of the people through cuts to public spending on services for the people, privatisation, increasing taxes on the people and cuts to company taxes.

It's true that in some circumstances Labor in government seems less ferocious than the Liberal Party in attacking the people.

Liberals act more openly on behalf of the more reactionary sections of monopoly corporations and US capital in Australia.

However, the final result is the same. Labor and Liberal both represent different sections of the local and foreign monopoly ruling class. It's merely a matter of differences in tactics between the most powerful sections of the ruling class on how to control the people, especially the working class.

Experience repeatedly shows how Labor in power is useful to big business in dispersing and silencing organised working class struggle. The Accord is just one example. And when Labor loses its usefulness in suppressing and diverting struggle the ruling class discards it.

Bourgeois parliament and its two main political parties are mainly window dressing and a facade creating

illusions that this is where the nation's most important political and economic decisions are made and where the real power resides.

It sets up illusions of democracy. The people exercise their democratic rights by voting for either the hard or soft tactics of the monopoly capitalist class to rule over the majority of working people. That's why it's called bourgeois democracy.

This is not to denigrate the Labor Party's working class and progressive rank and file members, supporters and the honest politicians who enter parliament, not as careerists and opportunists, but genuinely believing they can improve the lives of working people.

But no sooner do the elected politicians enter parliament then their singular role becomes that of serving the interests of capital, not the workers.

There are countless examples of this, especially in the history of the

ALP-aligned section of the labour movement.

Some small changes can be brought about in parliament, but they are on the fringes and are not in any way allowed to tamper with the monopoly capitalist class rule.

For the working class and the working people the alternative to the cesspool and distraction of bourgeois parliament is developing our own independent agenda and organisations outside parliament, in workplaces and in the communities, in cities and the country-side.

The future lies in building a powerful force for change around common demands, and struggle that defends and advances the interests of the people and unites the great majority.

This is where a genuine and vibrant people's democracy will spring from and flourish, and lay the foundations for an anti-imperialist democratic and socialist Australia.

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Sham contracting on the rise as economic crisis deepens

by Ned K.

Workers and their unions in industries including cleaning, construction, information technology and communications are fighting super exploitation of workers through sham contracting arrangements.

Sham contracting occurs when workers are paid as a franchisee or sub-contractor, but receive take home income less than even the minimum safety net award under the Fair Work Act.

It is common to find workers caught in these situations having net take home pay of as little as \$8 to \$10 per hour.

Take cleaning, as an example. A worker on a temporary working visa needs to have a job for a continuous

period of at least two years to stay in Australia and progress towards being accepted as a permanent resident.

Their skills from their country of origin are not recognised, so they apply for jobs like cleaning to survive.

On application for the job they are told that they need an ABN and that this will be an asset to them with the Immigration Department, as they will be able to show they have their own business!

They are paid on a monthly basis an amount equivalent to say \$20 to \$25 per hour. This seems pretty good. However they soon find out that they have to cover themselves for workers' compensation insurance, cleaning materials and equipment, and they have no annual leave, no sick pay, no insurance and no superannuation. They are only paid



the equivalent of three or four hours a night, but the actual job regularly takes five to six hours.

As they are a so-called sub-contractor, the principal contractor does not reimburse them for the extra hours. They are 'free' to work as long as they like!

If they are a franchisee, the situation is worse. They also have to pay back to the franchise holder up to 25% of the money they are paid each month in the form of a franchise fee. The holder of the franchise justifies this payment from the franchisee by saying that this enables the franchise holder to pay for the cost of bidding for other contracts

for the future 'prosperity' of all!

Recently in the cleaning industry there was a case of two Indian cleaners receiving a take home pay of \$6 per hour for cleaning a series of bank branches in a capital city.

The situation is becoming an embarrassment for the Labor Government whose Fair Work Ombudsman recently announced it was going to audit 1,000 cleaning companies.

More workers caught in these situations are getting organised to oppose this super exploitation. This is a good development for the workers' movement in Australia.

Vanguard

Vanguard is a national monthly newspaper which expresses the viewpoint of the Communist Party of Australia (Marxist - Leninist), the CPA (M-L). Readers are encouraged to comment on, criticise or contribute material to *Vanguard*. Articles, digital graphics, cartoons, clippings, comments or a few lines are all very welcome. All material should be sent to:

**Vanguard Editorial Staff
PO Box 196, Fitzroy, Vic. 3065**

Vanguard strives to provide a Marxist analysis of Australian society, economy and politics. An important aspect of developing this analysis is an intimate knowledge of and close involvement in all aspects of Australian struggle.

The cost of producing a national newspaper is considerable. Readers are encouraged to contribute whatever they can by sending donations to the above address.

The CPA(M-L) may be contacted through *Vanguard* at PO Box 196, Fitzroy, Vic, 3065.

Email: cpaml@vanguard.net.au

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Statement on the future of *Vanguard*

In our historic 50th anniversary year of this paper's publication, it is timely to reflect on our methods of communication. There is no doubt that the internet and social media have many advantages over the print medium around which our publications were originally based.

With our paper's monthly format and distribution largely through the post, it is very difficult to keep readers as up-to-date as they need to be. Nor have we fully utilised our online presence. Our website by and large makes *Vanguard* available, but still in its monthly format.

If we are to succeed in providing relevant and immediate analysis and leadership to the people, we cannot continue to rely on a hard copy publication. Nor can our writers and production people be shackled by the timelines and workload associated with publication deadlines.

Rising costs of production and distribution are important factors. Even more critical is the fact that younger people (and many older ones also) find much of their news, information, and opinions, etc. on the internet. It is essential that more young people are won to the revolutionary struggle for national independence and socialism.

With this in mind, and by decision of the Central Committee of our Party, the website (www.vanguard.net.au) is being re-designed with a more modern and dynamic look, and will be more comprehensive and appealing, with more downloadable content. The website will be updated frequently and will be more responsive to topical events. The future will see even more opportunities to engage with readers and supporters beyond those that will initially be available on our new website. It is imperative that we train our people to utilise these with confidence.

In the meantime *Vanguard* will continue to be published as a newspaper, and will only transition to fully on-line when the new website has been trialled and consolidated. It is hoped that we can make that transition during 2014.

Australian Communist will continue to be posted to subscribers and donors.

Major banks post record profits as the economy slumps



Workers demand...

Make the rich pay! A Super Profit Bankers' Tax for the Big 4 Banks; No rip-off of the Australian people!

They're worth fighting for, because Liberal and Labor won't do it!

Communist Party of Australia (Marxist-Leninist)

www.vanguard.net.au

by Max O.

While the Australian economy is worsening and wage costs collapse major banks are reporting record profits.

The Commonwealth Bank reported a 10 % rise in its full year cash profit to \$7.8 billion and the ANZ a \$4.8 billion profit, which is a 7% profit rise during nine months to end of June.

Contrast these record bank profits with the wage cost index, which was 3.2% up to the June quarter and you can see who is winning and losing in the world of economic survival.

Wages growth is the same as it was in the Global Financial Crisis (GFC) of 2008, which makes it equal slowest for 13 years.

Where are the banks striking it rich? Mortgages and deposits. Income from the Commonwealth's retail section increased by 13% for the year, but business and private revenue fell by 3%. The latter figure indicates a decline in economic production.

However the banks' overall revenue is down, with the Commonwealth losing

by 5% to \$44.87 billion dollars.

This is reflected in falling share prices; Commonwealth shares dropped by 1.4% to \$73.51 and the ANZ by 2.9% to \$29.49.

While everything seems solid at the moment for the banks, it can all melt into thin air.

Bank levy to hit depositors

Hence the Rudd Government's announcement of a bank depositor tax of 0.05% on all deposits up to \$250,000.

The purpose of the levy, which is set to start in 2016, is to fund any future bailouts of failing banks.

Banks don't like this at all, as they expect the Federal Government to either guarantee or bail them out like they did during the 2008 GFC.

However, not to worry, while it would be levied on banks and not account holders, it is expected banks will pass that on to depositors.

You will find that multinationals from the USA, Europe etc are behind the big four banks here, and the business sheet they operate from is essentially the same.

Editorial

Broaden the base, narrow the target!

This was the call by Mao Zedong to build a united front of workers, peasants and patriotic classes and sectors in response to the Japanese invasion of China in 1937.

It was a strategy based on distinguishing the major contradiction at that time – between the Chinese people and Japanese imperialism – from the other contradictions which then became secondary, such as the contradiction between the Communist Party of China and the Kuomintang.

The united front policy was not 'lowest common denominator' politics. Mao stressed the need for the Communist Party to have both 'independence and initiative' within the united front, maintaining its organisation and freedom of action while proving itself to be the most steadfast and reliable force in the collective resistance to Japanese imperialism. The unity with other forces and class interests was conditional on them both taking a stand against Japanese imperialism and not harming the interests of the workers and peasants.

These lessons can be applied to our situation in Australia where the major contradiction is between the Australian people and the economic, political and military interests of US imperialism and, to a lesser extent, European and Japanese interests. We need to build a united front to win our independence.

US imperialism dominates Australia economically through multinational corporate influence in the powerful Business Council of Australia, along with the US-based merchant banks and credit ratings agencies that dictate the flow of investment capital. Imperialism's 'free trade' agenda is promoted by the World Bank and is being stepped up with the US-sponsored Trans Pacific Trade Agreement which will further erode Australia's manufacturing base, the PBS and many service industries.

Parliamentary politicians from the major parties absolutely grovel before US imperialism, and readily agree to endorse every foreign policy position taken by the US. The same politicians have no qualms about handing over the Australian military and naval forces, bases and airfields to US imperialism, or committing Australian military personnel to whatever wars and adventures US imperialism wants to embark upon.

None of this serves the Australian people well. But at the present time many do not see the connections sufficiently clearly to take a conscious anti-imperialist stand. They lament the inroads being made into their notion of Australian independence, but do not yet see the need to build an anti-imperialist united front to 'broaden the base and narrow the target'.

Nevertheless, in many struggles across the country, workers, unionists, farmers, small producers, tradespeople, students, professionals and unemployed people do come together to defend their environment, their towns, their jobs, their schools and hospitals and communities from the greed and destruction wrought by corporate monopolies.

Recent examples in Victoria have been the alliance between SPC Ardmora workers and fruit growers in the Goulburn Valley, the rally in support of the Yallourn power workers (page 10), the cavalcade from Seaspray to Melbourne against Coal Seam Gas, and the courageous battle of the residents of Tecoma against McDonalds.

From these beginnings, a powerful movement can develop to challenge the real rulers of Australia and expel foreign imperialism for good.

One would think that if a bank fails it should be the shareholders who ought to pay for the losses; after all they took the gains and had their say in the running of the business.

Tax cuts for the rich

But no, the banks want more! Over the years the corporate tax rate has been cut from 49% in 1988 to 30% today and it could well go down by another 5% to 25%, if the Business Council of Australia gets its way.

Added to this is the well known fact

that corporations get their accountants to fiddle the books to "underestimate" their profits and so evade tax. Subsequently, corporations like the banks are already on a lower tax rate than most workers.

Not so long ago the Australian Tax Office revealed that about 70 Australians (which no doubt would include the big four bank CEOs) with incomes of more than \$1 million each paid no income tax for 2010-11.

The solution to spreading the wealth around would be to nationalise the banks under an anti-imperialist government. Not such a bad idea.

Australia as a client state: The US, Australia and the great cause of Australian independence

by Alex M.

In this the fiftieth anniversary edition of *Vanguard* it is pertinent to highlight one of the cornerstones of our political programme, namely the fighting for and attaining of Australian independence.

What does it mean to speak of Australian independence? Isn't Australia an independent nation?

While Australia is independent from the standpoint of mainstream political analysis - that is, we are not formally subordinate to another nation state in a colonial relationship, for example - this level of analysis hides more than it reveals.

What is hidden by using this analysis (mainstream political analysis) is the dependent status that Australia has with its 'great and powerful' friend the US.

Gavan McCormack article

In a timely essay on the issue of the political servility and subservience that lies at the heart of Japan-US relations that appeared in the June issue of *The Asia-Pacific Journal* (<http://www.japanfocus.org/-Gavan-McCormack/3961>) the Australian scholar Gavan McCormack eloquently summarises what he calls the 'client state' relationship:

"The division of world states into political science categories of independent (sovereign, nation) states and subject (colonial or neo-colonial) states tends to neglect the increasingly important, in-between category of 'client states.'

"The formal sovereignty of the client state is not in question, but it combines independence and democratic responsibility with renunciation of independence or deliberately chosen submission, such that it is to be described only by oxymoronic terms such as 'dependent independence' or 'servile sovereignty.'

"I have suggested a definition that distinguishes it from other, related forms of colonial, conquered, or directly dominated, or neo-colonial territory as 'a state that enjoys the formal trappings of Westphalian sovereignty and independence, and is therefore neither a colony nor a puppet state, but which has internalised the requirement to give preference to "other" interests over its own.'"

[Westphalian in this instance refers to the 1648 Treaty of Westphalia which marked the end of the Thirty Years War in Europe. In International Relations it



is taken as signalling the start of state sovereignty]

McCormack elaborates on how the subordinate party tends to act towards the dominant state:

"The puzzling but crucial fact is that submission is not forced but chosen. The client state is happy to have its 'patron' occupy parts of its territory, and determined at all costs to avoid giving it offence.

"It pays meticulous attention to

adopting and pursuing policies that will satisfy its patron, and readily pays whatever price necessary to be sure that the patron not abandon it."

He then outlines three relatively recent examples of leaders of client states:

"Though there is no agreed social science term to describe it, in common parlance it is what is known as the 'poodle' syndrome - the term the UK widely adopted to apply to the government of Tony Blair (PM, 1997-2007) in the United Kingdom.

"Australia's Prime Minister John Howard (PM, 1996-2007) was in similar vein often referred to as a US 'deputy sheriff.'

"In Japan some critics referred to Prime Minister Koizumi (PM, 2001-2006) as a 'pochi' (pet dog) and within the George W. Bush White House he was known - at least to some - as 'Sergeant-Major Koizumi.'"

McCormack in the essay goes on to examine the Australia - US client state relationship highlighting the concern that some former Prime Ministers have

about increasing Australian servility towards the US.

Malcolm Fraser has been outspoken about being locked into 'the United States purposes and objectives' which limited our ability to 'act as an independent and confident nation'.

Australia is a client state of the US

We are a formally independent country but the Australian ruling class has chosen to adopt the subservient role of underlings to a great power. Such an attitude has been a hallmark of the Australian ruling class since European settlement.

We can unite large numbers of people behind the cause of a genuinely anti-imperialist Australian independence because workers and others can see that it is positive for the all-round development of the country, a development in which they must take the lead and control the agenda.

The great cause of Australian independence - worth fighting for!

Business Council of Australia calls for class war against workers!

by Max O.

In late July the Business Council of Australia (BCA) released its demands for the economy called *Economic Action Plan for Enduring Prosperity*.

Its wish list contains predictable demands from big business: Cut company tax by 5%, increase the GST, new taxes on home owners, reduce penalty rates, and review the 'high' minimum wage and a return to Work Choices.

And, as the BCA likes to boast, its membership is made up of CEOs from 100 of Australia's biggest companies, many of them foreign corporations.

These are no idle commands, they bluntly require everyday Australians to harden up and pay more tax, so big business can pay less.

Their plan 'for Enduring Prosperity' was so blatant that the activist GetUp! organisation recently placed a fake BCA (re-badging it the "Business Citizens of Australia - We're mean business") advertisement in the *Australian* to satirise the serious and scary economic agenda of the Business Council.

The incredible thing is that GetUp! didn't have to exaggerate any of the BCA's proposals.

For example, this quote from the GetUp! ad satire states: "Right now, Australia is spending beyond its means. We may have experienced 22 years of unbroken economic growth, but to ensure our economic prosperity into the future, we need to free up big business to generate more profits, and pay less tax. That balance can only be found by freeing us up to earn more by asking individuals to pay more."

If you pore through the BCA's 93 recommendations from the *Economic Action Plan for Enduring Prosperity* document, the above quote correctly presents the ruling class's attitude to who should benefit and who should pay for the current economic downturn.

What choice? Back to the Accord?

And the 'wonder king', Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, as he likes to say, "Is here to help." Big business that is!

He launched his comeback trail for the September elections, by announcing a "national competitiveness agenda".

His little gem seeks to reform seven areas of the economy i.e. domestic electricity price regulation, labour market rigidity, business productivity, regulatory imposts on business, education and training, national

infrastructure and improving operating conditions for small business. The goal being to lift the rate of annual productivity growth from its existing level of 1.6% to 2% or better.

How will he achieve this?

By a 1980s 'Accord'-like pact between business, unions and the federal government, which paralysed the union movement and gutted the working class!

Rudd has discussed this agenda with the BCA, the ACTU and Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations Bill Shorten, to shackle workers to wage cuts and to increase their labour time for the benefit of the capitalist monopolies.

If they win the 2013 elections, the likes of Shorten will enthusiastically police unions and force workers to succumb to the dictates of the BCA.

What choice? Back to WorkChoices?

Then there is the pretender for the job of prime minister, opposition leader Tony Abbott, who presently avoids declaring his hand on the matter of 'workplace reform', but will ferociously implement the BCA's demands and carry out a frontal attack on the working class once he wins government.

“Why Vanguard Is Published”

by Nick G.

In September 1963, the first edition of the first volume of Vanguard announced its appearance under the heading above.

“Its main task,” according to its inaugural editorial, “will be to give a Marxist-Leninist analysis of the major events of our time.”

At that time, Communists who had been expelled from, or who had broken with, the former Communist Party of Australia were still in the process of reconstituting revolutionary organisation.

On March 15, 1964, the Communist Party of Australia (Marxist-Leninist) was born and Vanguard took on the role of expressing the viewpoint of the new party.

The split in the international communist movement, with China on one side and the Soviet Union on the other, was the major backdrop to the split in Australia.

However, it over-simplifies differences in Australia on the application of revolutionary theory to this country by taking the backdrop for the reality.

The truth is that there were major differences in this country over questions relating to the peace movement, to the ALP and parliament, to the trade unions, to Party organisation, to ideology.

The international schism provided the conditions under which these internal divisions were played out, but they had a life, an existence of their own.

The break with revisionism

In reconstituting the Communist approach to politics, organisation and ideology in our country it was indeed necessary to break with the view that the Labor Party, by virtue of its majority working class membership and ties to the union movement, was a working class party or even a “two class” party.

It needed to be said that it was a party of capitalism that operated within the confines of the capitalist parliament and within the limitations of policies that accepted the system of capitalism.

It was indeed necessary to break with the view that trade unions were vehicles for fundamental social change, even for revolution, and that winning positions of leadership within unions was a contribution to bringing about revolutionary change.

It needed to be said that trade unions were valued organisations for the defence of workers’ rights and

conditions, but that trade unionism as an ideology tied the workers to capitalism and held back the political struggle by workers for the abolition of capitalism.

It needed to be said that the work of Communists as members of unions

It needed to be said that so long as imperialism existed so did the danger of war and interference in others’ internal affairs. It needed to be said that the right to take up arms against oppression was a fundamental human right.

It was indeed necessary to break with

the revision of the ideology that guided the Party underlay all of the problems identified above.

It needed to be said that there could be no peaceful transition to socialism and no state arrangement to protect and guarantee socialism other than the dictatorship of the proletariat.

It needed to be said that the approach adopted by Mao Zedong in leading the Chinese revolution to victory, and in continuing the revolution under the conditions of the dictatorship of the proletariat, was a new development and enrichment of Marxism-Leninism, and that his teachings on the danger of a restoration of capitalism were absolutely pertinent and necessary.

It needed to be said that embedded within the teachings of Mao Zedong was a consistent elaboration of the ethical standards to which Communists had to adhere in order to win the trust of the workers and the right to be taken as their leaders in struggle.

No mere observer

It was not as a mere observer, therefore, that Vanguard set itself the task of giving a “Marxist-Leninist analysis of the major events of our times”.

It described itself in 1968 as “not just a paper to be sold. We do not want ‘sales’ so we can record higher circulation figures.

“Vanguard is an ideological weapon and in the conditions of today can be used to combat and defeat the ideology of capitalism.”

Combatting and defeating the ideology of capitalism remains the major systematic task of this paper.

It does this in the absence of a staff of “experts”, drawing on the collective talents of writers and contributors who are embedded in their workplaces and their communities, active alongside the very people for whom they write.

However imperfectly, it strives to express the viewpoint of the Communist Party of Australia (Marxist-Leninist) and to merge the Party with the struggles, aspirations and ideals of the working class.

Vanguard will eventually transition to an online format, enabling it to express the viewpoint of the Party on a daily, rather than a monthly basis.

This is a transition that must be accomplished with the support of the whole organisation and with the engagement of all of our readers so that we can provide a better service as we embark on our second half-century of publication.



needed to penetrate to the depths of the workplace and that capturing positions of leadership created the danger of the isolation of officials from the rank and file or of unjustifiably elevating their importance within the Party compared to others working more directly with workers at the point of production.

It was indeed necessary to break with pacifist illusions that rejected the role of revolutionary armed struggle against imperialism, and with views that imperialism had come to its senses and could be engaged in productive and genuine negotiations about ending its oppressive practices.

methods of Party organisation that made Party members vulnerable to attack and persecution, and which pointed Party members in the direction of participation in local, state and federal elections.

It needed to be said that there was an ever-present danger of fascist reaction against the Party, and that the bulk of its members should be secretly organised in small workplace cells, and not declare their membership, rather than being public members organised into suburban or district branches.

It was indeed necessary to break with the watering down of the revolutionary teachings of Marxism-Leninism, for

Political Positions and Policies of the ...

The statements on these pages reflect the position of the CPA (M-L) on many of the issues currently confronting the Australian people. More detailed explanations and arguments can be found in the Party Programme and Resolutions of the 13th Congress, which are available on the internet at www.vanguard.net.au

US alliance and military bases

US imperialism is the main instigator of imperialist wars for the control of resources, markets and for its monopoly capital investments across the globe.

The new US imperialist military expansion and provocations in the Asia Pacific region are a threat to peace and national sovereignty of countries and people in the region.

Australia's military integration into the US imperialist war machine assists the US to wage predatory wars against people and nations.

The CPA (M-L) seeks to build active connections with the broad united front movement to kick out all foreign military bases and troops from Australia and across the Asia-Pacific.

Free Trade, TPP

Fair Trade between countries must be based on mutual benefit and mutual respect, not imperialist domination.

The proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement is all about an *unequal* partnership between countries in the Asia-Pacific region and the dominant power, the United States. It is all about facilitating the penetration of powerful US corporations into markets across the region. They seek to do this by sweeping aside local laws and protections that benefit the people.

The CPA (M-L) supports all struggles of the people to expose and reject the TPPA, as it betrays the interests of the Australian people and the interests of the people in the Asia-Pacific region.

Manufacturing

The manufacturing industry in Australia is being decimated.

The globalised economy being foisted upon the people of the world by imperialism sets an agenda for plunder on an unprecedented world scale, driven by the escalating rivalry between the US, China, Europe, Japan and Russia.

It has ignited a desperate frenzy to seize and control the resources and markets of lesser nations such as Australia.

The CPA (M-L) supports all struggles by manufacturing workers, unions, employers and communities in opposing the foreign takeovers and the systematic running down of Australia's industrial base.

Leading role of the Working Class

Based on our analyses of classes and class contradictions in Australia, the CPA (M-L) is of the view that the principal contradiction in Australia's class struggle is between US economic and political domination and the overwhelming majority of the people, with the working class as the leading class in the anti-imperialist struggle for an independent, democratic and socialist Australia.

When mobilised and infused with the far-sighted, revolutionary class consciousness and struggle it is the only class that has the capacity and power to liberate itself and the people from the exploitation and brutality of international monopoly capital (imperialism).

Environment and Climate Change

The CPA (M-L) supports the many struggles of the Australian people for environmental sustainability, led by the indigenous people's struggle against the destruction of their lands by rapacious mining multinationals.

We support the struggles of workers, community groups, small business and farmers for environmental sustainability, and to make the multinationals pay for the transition to a renewable energy economy.

We recognise that the united struggle of the people can make short term advances to reduce pollution and protect the environment.

However, it is only by winning an independent Australia under the leadership of the working class that the people can ensure an environmentally sustainable country.

Education

The CPA (M-L) supports education workers in resisting the neo-liberal push to further privatise education.

We support the vision of a public education system designed to meet the holistic needs of students to develop as empowered and ethical citizens.

Instead of importing failed ideas from the imperialist heartland where education systems are performing badly, the education system should provide teachers with sufficient time and support for collaborative practises



Founding Chairperson of the CPA (M-L) Ted Hill

such as peer classroom observation, lesson preparation teams, and school-based research groups.

Public education workers are the key to building a united campaign with parents, students, the public sector and the wider community.

China

The emergence and consolidation of private capitalist accumulation from the exploitation of workers and peasants, and the export of capital, mean that previous certainties about socialism in China are now obsolete.

Our view is that forces working for the further entrenchment of capitalism in China have the upper hand in the Communist Party of China.

The CPA (M-L) notes the significant growth of Chinese investment in the Australian economy, and will always put the interests of the Australian working class at the forefront of our activities and demands.

The CPA (M-L) will base its response to international affairs on the basis of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism.

Treaty, Land Rights

The CPA (M-L) believes that there can be no genuine reconciliation between the ATSI peoples and the rest of the Australian people without a Treaty acknowledging ATSI people's prior ownership of this country, and that the invasion of ATSI lands was essentially accomplished by force and violence.

The Treaty must acknowledge ATSI communities' rights to self-determination on the basis of real and lasting Land Rights.

The current Australian Constitution

is out-dated and must be replaced by an anti-imperialist, democratic and republican Constitution that includes a Bill of Rights defining and enshrining the rights and liberties of all Australians.

Indigenous struggle

For more than 40,000 years, Aboriginal people were the sole custodians of the land and all its natural wealth, which they respected and protected for future generations.

It was this relationship to the country and protection of the natural environment by the Aboriginal people that the colonisers and imperialists have been trying to wipe out with the successive government policies (Labor and Liberal) that serve the foreign and local mining monopolies and multinationals.

The present struggles against the racist Intervention and seizure of their mineral rich lands by mining monopolies are not deterring Aboriginal communities from continuing the fight.

They have wide support from many Australians.

Income Management

Labor's extension of the welfare quarantining, Basics Card approach to people who need dignity and self-empowerment comes at the same time as Liberal Joe Hockey's call to "end the era of entitlement" which attacks the same poor and marginalised communities from yet another direction.

It shows that between social democracy and outright conservatism there is only service to the rich, and punishment for the poor.

Communist Party of Australia (Marxist-Leninist)

Asylum seekers, Refugees

Asylum seekers and refugees hoping to settle in Australia are mainly escaping wars of aggression and occupation, poverty and oppression created by the brutality of imperialism.

They should be treated humanely and decently.

No asylum seeker should be locked up in prison camp conditions, off-shore or in Australia, but instead be provided with proper housing and support in Australia while their position is being considered.

There is no real solution to the global plight of refugees whilst the world and its people continue to be plundered and exploited by capitalism and imperialism.

Nationalisation

The issue of nationalisation raises the prospect of socialism.

It demonstrates the fact that the capitalist class is not essential to society functioning and producing; in Engels' words it "proves itself a superfluous class".

The CPA (M-L) supports the revolutionary nationalisation of key industries, such as gas, water, electricity, telecommunications, banking and mineral resources to benefit the people, to raise living standards, to create secure, sustainable and non-polluting jobs.

In continuing the revolutionary transition to socialism, it is essential that the working class exercises control over the pace and extent of change through participatory democracy – at the workplace level, in the communities, in the government.

Trade unions

Unions express the collective power of workers in the ceaseless struggle to gain and defend the best terms and conditions within the capitalist system of exploitation.

Trade union struggles in themselves do not challenge the fundamental economic, social and political system of capitalism.

Nevertheless, unions are extremely important centres of workers' resistance and a rallying point for wider sections of the people.

Big business employs the full force of the state – governments, legal system, media, and ultimately the police and army. Against this, fighting trade



Ted Bull and John Cummins - fine comrades of the CPA (M-L)

unions rely on empowering workers in the workplace, and forging solidarity across the trade union movement and community.

Parliament, elections

Parliamentary democracy enshrines the freedoms of the capitalist class – to own the means of production, land and resources, to trade freely, to exploit and sack workers, and to enforce their class rule by a legal system ultimately supported by armed forces and other elements of the state apparatus.

Parliament is a "talking shop" which monitors and tinkers with the engine of capitalism.

The driving seat is occupied by unelected people; monopoly owners and shareholders of key industries, banking and financial executives, and high officials of the public service, police, armed forces and other bureaucrats, who ensure the continuity of the system, regardless of elections.

Socialist democracy

The CPA (M-L)'s conception of socialism is based on fundamental principles:

The working class controls a completely new state apparatus – a workers' army, police, courts and other institutions of state, including the administrative bureaucracy.

There is a centrally planned economy with long-term development goals to meet the needs of the people.

There is sectoral and representational democracy in national, regional and local assemblies – to frame policies, and to implement and monitor them.

There is vigorous and deep-seated participatory democracy in workplaces and communities.

The role of the revolutionary party/parties is to guide and empower the



masses in achieving these goals, continuing the revolutionary process of transforming society to liberate the full potential of all people.

Women

Women's rights under capitalism are subject to the law of uneven development, with some improvements made, then a move backwards.

This vulnerability of women, and particularly of working women, will never be entirely eradicated under capitalism.

Over the last decade, women have started to go backwards again in their quest for equality with men.

Imperialism is dictating that Australian workers must have their wages lowered and their rights in the workplace reduced. All workers are under attack, but women are additionally vulnerable.

There is no alternative solution in the pursuit of equality for women, outside of the creation of an independent and socialist Australia.

Banks

The big four banks in Australia; ANZ, Westpac, NAB and the Commonwealth effectively monopolise the Australian banking system.

With the deregulation of the finance sector from 1979-84, the government's responsibility for the supply of money and of interest rates was taken away.

The Reserve Bank is now independent of government control, and the private banks act independently of Reserve Bank decisions on official interest rates.

This has facilitated the free flow of speculative capital and loans from the world's wealthiest institutions.

Banks should serve the working people, small farmers and producers,

not profiteers and parasites.
Nationalise the banks!

Multiculturalism

Migrant workers have always stood at the centre of Australia's working class struggles and activism, going back to the days of Eureka Stockade.

In Australia today, migrant and refugee workers predominate in the unskilled and semi-skilled jobs with the harshest conditions and lowest wages, such as meat processing and storage, warehousing, process work, and cleaning.

Many are involved in workplace struggles for job security, better wages and conditions and union rights.

The CPA (M-L) works to unite the great majority of Australian people from all cultural, racial and religious backgrounds in the struggle against multinational corporations' domination of Australia and for anti-imperialist independence and socialism.

International Movement

The CPA (M-L) stands for the unity of the world's working class and supports the struggles of the oppressed nations and peoples.

We reject the phony "patriotism" of the capitalist class which is simply a mask for that class's betrayal of national interests and its continued acceptance of control by imperialism.

We uphold anti-imperialist national sentiment which is, at heart, proletarian internationalism under the conditions of workers' existence in a client state of imperialism.

Left forces in Australia

The CPA (M-L) is striving to apply the principles of Marxism-Leninism to Australian conditions.

It takes its theoretical guidance from the works of Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin, Mao Zedong and our founding Chairperson, Ted Hill.

It seeks truth from facts. It relies on collective analysis to discern the principal and secondary contradictions in situations and social and political issues, and applies democratic centralism in formulating the strategies and tactics that arise from this.

The CPA (M-L) regards reformism, revisionism and sectarianism as the most harmful trends in the Australian working class movement.

Immediate Demands

Regardless of which party wins the federal election on September 7 there will always be opportunities to discuss with families, friends, workmates and others the real issues confronting the Australian people, and the poor regard given to their concerns by the main parliamentary parties.

The Communist Party of Australia (Marxist-Leninist) has developed a number of demands which, we believe, put people before profits and Australian national independence in place of the interests of US imperialism. These demands can be raised in an appropriate way, when organising or taking action on many issues.

Workers/union rights and democratic rights

- Empower workers with the right to strike!
- Scrap the ABCC – Stop criminalising workers demanding decent wages and conditions!
- Guarantee workplace rights!
 - Right to job security
 - Right to a safe workplace
 - Right to organise
 - Right to collective action
 - Right to union OH & S representatives
 - Right to full entitlements when companies fail

Environment

- Make the polluters pay!
 - Cap and tax carbon emissions – no “market solutions”
 - No emission reduction costs passed on to the people
- Phase out coal!
 - Create clean power using renewable energy
 - Retrain workers for new clean, sustainable industries
- Water belongs to all – it’s not for trade or sale!
- No uranium mining – unsafe for workers, communities and humanity!

Manufacturing, jobs, mining tax

- Stop nation-wrecking by multinationals – nationalise and build the nation for the people!
- Regulate and control foreign investment - reject unequal “free trade” deals!
- Tax the profits of the mining monopolies! Keep the wealth in Australia!
 - Develop renewable energy production
 - Build clean, sustainable manufacturing industries
 - Improve amenities in mining communities and regional areas

Health, education, and livelihood

- Serve the people – no privatisation!
 - More and better public schools
 - More and better public hospitals
 - More and better public housing – implement rent controls
 - More and better public transport
 - More and better community-run childcare centres
- Nationalise the banks!
 - Regulate interest rates, Cut bank fees
- More affordable public housing!
- Scrap Negative Gearing!
- Increase pensions and entitlements!

Aboriginal sovereignty and the ‘intervention’

- End the racist Intervention now - Aboriginal control of Aboriginal affairs!
- Stop land grabbing by mining companies!
- Scrap compulsory ‘Income Management’!
- Leave Land Rights alone - recognise Aboriginal sovereignty!
- A just Treaty with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait peoples!

Foreign policy

- For an independent and peaceful foreign policy!
- No more support for American wars – get out of Iraq, Afghanistan and the Philippines!
- No US Alliance – no foreign military bases on Australian soil!
- Nuclear free Australia!

Social issues

- Equal rights for women!
 - Equal pay for equal value
 - Make equal opportunity a reality
 - Right to choose legal, safe abortion
 - Parental leave paid at full wage
- For a multicultural Australia!
 - No to racism
 - Stop demonisation of asylum seekers and refugees
- No discrimination on grounds of sexuality!



I am interested in meeting comrades from the CPA (M-L) for discussion and exchange of views

I am interested in joining a Marxist study group

I am interested in assisting the CPA (M-L) in non-public work

I am interested in joining the CPA (M-L)

NAME (Print):

CITY and SUBURB:

CONTACT PHONE:

Post to : Vanguard, P.O. Box 196

Fitzroy

Vic. 3065

Profiting from misery

by **Duncan B.**

Multinational companies are making vast profits out of the misery being inflicted on asylum seekers who reach Australian territory.

These companies include Serco, G4S, Toll Group and International Health and Medical Services. A number of smaller air transport and engineering companies are also doing very well.

The Rudd Government's Papua New Guinea policy has resulted in an upsurge in activity by the companies involved transporting equipment and setting up camps on Manus Island.

Serco controls 20 centres across Australia in a contract worth nearly \$2 billion. G4S is a world-wide security

company which has an \$80 million eight months contract for security services on Manus Island.

International Health and Medical Services has reaped nearly \$1 billion from contracts to provide health services for asylum seekers in Australia and on Nauru and Manus Island.

Canstruct has contracts worth more than \$140 million for work on Nauru. Decmil won a contract worth about \$150 million to build a detention centre on Manus Island. Air-charter companies had contracts worth \$41 million in the case of Adagold Aviation, and \$20 million in the in the case of Skytraders. Toll had air-charter contract worth more than \$11 million last year

Even the Salvation Army received \$74 million for providing welfare



services to refugees.

Serco has become notorious for violations of human rights in the privatised prisons it controls in England.

Detainees here have suffered assaults and psychological damage, while guards have experienced post-traumatic stress due to lack of training.

Serco has been accused of price-gouging, understaffing, under-training

and deliberately allowing detention centres to descend into chaos to extort more funds from the Government.

Asylum seekers must be treated humanely. They should be allowed to settle in the community, not be imprisoned in camps for the benefit of exploiters such as Serco.

Further Reading: Antony Lowenstein *Profits of Doom: How Vulture Capitalism Is Swallowing the World.*

Pain OK for those who can't pay for health care

by **Louisa L.**

I've just had an operation, and it's blown me away how little pain I've felt.

Years ago I remember my parents' distress as they headed to a funeral leaving me uncharacteristically sobbing after an operation. Fifteen minutes later the painkillers arrived and I settled, but Mum and Dad worried all day. Pain medication was given four hourly, and patients suffered till it arrived.

Scientific research has now uncovered the far better recovery rates, and reduced use of painkillers, if pain remains under control.

That's science in service to the people, but scientific analysis too often serves big business.

"They don't want sick people"

British multinational BUPA and Ramsey Health Care are two of the biggest private hospital owners in Australia.

According to Ramsey's managing director Christopher Rex, private hospitals treat 43% of all hospital patients in Australia, provide 33% of hospital beds and perform 66% of all elective surgery.

By 2021 private providers expect to treat 50% of all hospital patients.

In labelling public hospitals 'public acute hospitals', Rex makes clear Ramsey's plan, that the private hospitals will get the easy operations and public hospitals will get the really sick.

A friend who had complications after an operation in a for-profit hospital described it like this, "They don't want really sick people. They don't have

enough staff."

She said staff were overworked and not always able to attend to basics. If you went home within a set period, you got nursing help at home, but you didn't get home help if you were sicker and had to stay longer.

This fits the government's 'case mix' funding, where each procedure is funded to a certain amount, and funding doesn't cover complications.

Given that public patients have to wait much longer for 'elective surgery' (seemingly everything that isn't life threatening) there's greater likelihood of such complications.

Anything difficult and expensive gets dumped on the public system.

Privates have a planned system for churning through routine procedures because few have emergency departments. And if you get sick after discharge, you may, like my friend, have to go to another hospital.

Targeting those with money

Ramsey, which began with one hospital in Australia, now runs 120 hospitals and owns regional broadcaster Prime.

It's expanded into Asia, particularly through a joint venture with Sime Darby signed in July. (The latter is a multinational involved in six sectors across Asia and Africa: plantations, property, industrial, motors, energy and utilities and healthcare. Accusations of deliberate lighting of forest fires in Indonesia and a land grab in Liberia have plagued its palm oil operations. en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sime_Darby)

Christopher Rex states Ramsey's aim is "build a quality portfolio of hospitals in Asia" targeting "600 million people

in ASEAN with (a) rising middle class demanding quality health care".

He writes of "opportunities for value creation via key synergies such as procurement, medical tourism and productivity benchmarking".

So it's all about wringing the greatest profits from their workers ("productivity benchmarking"), using Sime Darby's Asian networks plus publicity to rope in the Asian middle classes ("procurement") and cutting costs through the use of cheaper labour

in Asia ("medical tourism").

It's obnoxious, but it's capitalism.

The middle class can afford "quality healthcare". The rest can suffer in underfunded public hospital systems, both here and in Asia.

Scientific analysis has been used by medical multinationals to boost capitalist profits. How long will people put up with it?

(For Christopher Rex's full statement, see his *Presentation to USB Australian Healthcare Conference 2013*)

Big business profits from asylum seeker detention centres

by **Ned K.**

Imperialism's media outlets and their political representatives in parliament in Australia, led currently by Rudd and Abbott, have a lot to say about the money that so-called 'people smugglers' make out of asylum seekers who fill the boats bound for Australia from the shores of Indonesia and beyond.

What they don't talk about is the millions of dollars made by multinationals from the incarceration of asylum seekers.

Detention centres in Australia, Manus Island and Nauru are privatised and run for profit by multinational companies such as Serco and G4S.

These multinationals are likely to make more profit from the detention centres on Manus Island and Nauru because the wages and conditions of detention centre workers there are likely to be far less than wages and conditions of detention centre workers in Australia.

Other multinationals such as Transfield and Toll make huge profits from contracts with the federal government to supply equipment, materials, food and construction of the centres.

Some of these multinationals make so much money out of the plight of millions of asylum seekers around the world that they have a vested interest in the number of asylum seekers ever increasing.

Placing detention centres in developing countries like Papua New Guinea rather than Australia suits them down to the ground, as they can take short cuts to increase profits more easily, far away from the eyes of the Australian people.

Detention centres have become a growth industry for imperialism, a contributor to their political representatives' Gross Domestic Product.

How decadent is the system of imperialism that includes and welcomes detention centres as contributors to the system's "economic growth"!

Energy Australia workers fight lockout

-Contributed-

Seventy five power workers at Energy Australia at Yallourn in Victoria's La Trobe Valley have, at the time of writing, been locked out of their workplace for more than 9 weeks.

The locked out power workers and their families are refusing to be starved into submission and, with the assistance of their local and national union leadership in Mining and Energy Division of the CFMEU and the community, are fighting back.

9 weeks on the grass

For 9 weeks the locked out workers have been sitting it out in freezing conditions on a 24 hour, round the clock protest camp outside the Energy Australia power station.

A campaign to force management into proper negotiation for a decent EBA is well underway.

On Friday August 16 the locked out Yallourn workers, families and their local community supporters travelled in a cavalcade of 3 large buses and cars into the centre of Melbourne, taking their protest directly to Energy Australia's head office in Melbourne CBD.

In Melbourne they were joined by a large contingent of supporters from other unions and the community in a march and rally outside Energy Australia head office, thus intensifying the ongoing campaign.

The bosses' law

The dispute began last year in August 2012 when, through their union, these workers had tried to negotiate a new workplace agreement.

From the beginning, Energy Australia rejected the union's claims for improvements in shift rostering, better consultation and agreement coverage.

The dispute was escalated on June 21 this year when Energy Australia locked out the 75 workers planning a 1 hour strike during the protected industrial period during the EBA negotiations.

This was after Energy Australia made a number of unsuccessful attempts in the FairWork Commission to dismiss the workers' majority vote for strike action, and have it declared illegal.

Frustrated with even the few small restrictions in FairWork on their freedom to attack the workers, Energy Australia resorted to WorkChoices/FairWork laws that allow bosses to legally lock out striking workers, or workers who plan to take strike action, even during the protected period!



Energy Australia's actions expose the industrial laws as there to uphold and protect big corporations.

Victorian District President, Luke van der Meulen, said that the lockout has galvanised wide public and union support.

"We have had great public support and the solidarity we have received from CFMEU and other union members throughout Australia has been inspiring.

"The company has pursued a hard line throughout the past year. It reneged on a previous commitment to improve conditions. It dramatically escalated the dispute rather than listening to the views of their workers," said Luke.

Wide support for the workers

Speakers at the rally outside Energy Australia's head office in Melbourne sent a strong message to the company, pledging continuing and widening support for the 75 locked out power workers.

Michael O'Connor, the National Secretary of the CFMEU, John Setka, Victorian Secretary of the CFMEU, and Dave Oliver, ACTU Secretary, told the locked out workers, their families and their supporters that they have the support not only from hundreds of thousands of CFMEU members nationally, but from the entire union movement.

They warned Energy Australia that it's not only the Yallourn power workers that the company is taking on, but all of the union movement. This support will be mobilised nationally.

Father Bob Maguire, a progressive Catholic priest, pointed out that it's the workers who are the creators of the country's wealth and should be guaranteed decent pay and conditions for the hard work they do.

Other speakers included Mark Wakeham from Environment Victoria and Cam Walker from Friends of the Earth, pledging the environmental movement's support for all Yallourn workers.

Family members of the locked out workers angrily called on Energy Australia managers to try and live on no income.

The rally was also attended by a small group of DLP members who said they strongly supported workers' rights and the rights of workers to strike.

They had regularly visited the protest camp outside the Yallourn power station in solidarity with the locked out workers.

Dave Kerin, a union and community activist, told the rally that it represented the diversity of movements that Australian workers belong to – labour, environment and political.

It also represents the beginnings of the only truly broad alliance of ordinary Australians capable of taking back the people's assets and dealing with the combined economic and climate emergency, he said.

Offensive against the working class

While winning this particular battle is extremely important for the workers concerned and their local community, it is also of significant importance to the whole working class in Australia, because the dominant section of the ruling class is moving on an offensive against the whole working class.

There is a concerted push to move forward in pulling down wages and working conditions across the board.

What is happening at Energy Australia has to be seen in this context and it has much wider implications.

Energy Australia is a subsidiary of a conglomerate private parent company,

China Light and Power (CLP Group) established in 1901 by the Kadoori family and operating from Hong Kong.

It has a long record of exploitation of workers.

Nationalise the power industry!

For us the main concern is how they operate in Australia.

It is clear from their actions that the methods they have used against workers overseas are being implemented here too. They must not be allowed to continue

The Energy Australia workers are standing up to them magnificently.

These workers have been through it all before during the privatisation of the publicly owned State Electricity Commission by the Kennett Liberal-National government in the early 1990s.

The privatisation decimated jobs and conditions in the local community. The price of electricity skyrocketed for all consumers in Victoria.

Building a movement to take the essential power industry out of the hands of multinational operators and have it run by workers and the communities is the only alternative.

That struggle will grow, and many lessons are being learned about the way this system is stacked up against the workers and working people.

We know that when working people are organised, class conscious and mobilised, they have an enormous desire and power for real change.

For that change to be brought about and guaranteed for the long term, workers will have to confront the task of taking the nation's state power into their own hands.

Fight for Australia's independence and socialism!

US imperialism is ripping apart the Middle East

by Bill F.

The military aggression, political intrigue and subversion of US imperialism have engulfed all the Middle East and spread fear and misery to millions of people.

Yet, it is a decaying and corrupt empire, despised and rejected as it thrashes about trying to assert its hegemony.

The legacy of US aggression and occupation is painfully obvious in Iraq, where murderous gangs and religious zealots compete for influence, bringing terror and indiscriminate violence to the cities and towns.

A succession of puppet governments pretends to rule over the terrified population and shattered infrastructure, while their US trained military defends the privileges and mansions from the wrath of the people.

Libya is no better.

It too has suffered the terrorising of its population and the destruction of its infrastructure.

Like Iraq, the legacy of US imperialism has been ethnic and religious division, economic chaos and ceaseless violence.

Like Iraq, US trained puppet rulers pretend to represent 'peace, freedom and democracy' while practising war, repression and dictatorship.

Syria is proving to be a harder nut to crack.

In spite of the specialist teams of CIA advisors, the generous supply of weaponry and the infiltration of foreign Islamic fundamentalist extremists, the Assad government has rallied the people and the armed forces to resist the terrorists and the plans of their master.



US troops have stayed on in Jordan after large scale exercises in June

So far, US imperialism has not been able to get much support from its 'friends' for either a 'no fly zone' or military intervention.

However, it should be noted that the US has thousands of troops already stationed across the border in Jordan, training mercenaries and keeping "all options on the table" as they say.

Egypt

Currently the focus is on Egypt.

US President Obama has been officially critical of the military coup, but has avoided naming it as such, since this would invoke a US law that would cut off all military aid.

In fact, the Egyptian military is a creature of US imperialism which has armed and trained them for decades, to the tune of US\$1.3 billion a year from a total 'aid' package of US\$1.5 billion.

The US virtually bribes the Egyptian military to close down supply tunnels into Gaza and enforce the Israeli blockade against the Palestinians.

The popular uprising that overthrew Mubarak was led mainly by the working class and unemployed youth while the Muslim Brotherhood and other conservative forces held back.

Morsi and the Brotherhood were then able to mobilise quickly and effectively to win the subsequent election.

This did not concern US imperialism greatly, as the armed forces were still beholden to the US.

However, alarm bells rang when the Morsi government said that it intended to review the US inspired 'peace treaty' with Israel.

This perhaps explains why the US has not sent in the Marines to defend an elected government and why military aid is continuing.

Israel

Obama and Kerry have set up a new round of 'two state' negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian Authority led by Abbas.

Immediately this was announced

the Netanyahu government approved hundreds of new settler houses inside the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem, an outrageous provocation thinly disguised by the release of a few prisoners whose time was nearly up anyway.

A statement issued by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine quite properly denounced the negotiations as a fraud.

"These negotiations are scheduled to take place under the shadow of the construction of settlements in Jerusalem and the West Bank, the terrorism of the settlers, the tightening of the siege on Gaza, ongoing war crimes and violations against the Palestinian land and people, as well as the manipulation of the issue of the prisoners.

"The negotiations serve only to support the decisions and intentions of the occupation to engage in war crimes while labelling it a 'peace process'.

"By participating in the negotiations, Palestinian parties help to achieve the goal of the occupation."

Wikileaks and the exposure of imperialism

by Jim H.

As Julian Assange continues to be holed up in a London embassy fighting attempts to have him finally extradited to the United States, he and his many supporters continue their work to expose the activities of imperialism against the peoples of the world.

WikiLeaks may not consciously be in the business of targeting the imperialist powers and their key servants. Even so, WikiLeaks' actions serve this role anyway. And this is a very good thing.

The damning evidence concerning the utter subservience of leading Labor politicians and figures reporting to the US Embassy in Canberra, and the relationships between their counterparts

in the Liberal and National Parties and the US imperialists, helped to expose the real nature of parliamentary politics in Australia and confirmed what many Australians already suspected about our so-called politicians.

It brought to light the high level of dishonesty and the anti-people nature of the practice of misnamed capitalist democracy.

In reality it is no more than a fig leaf to cover the essential dictatorship of a few that is the underlying reality: the Australian people do not have political power in their hands.

Further than this, WikiLeaks has shown the extent to which Australian sovereignty and independence has been sacrificed to American control.

For these reasons the ongoing activities of this group deserve serious

support.

The WikiLeaks Australian Citizens Alliance has been set up to continue the exposure work.

The WikiLeaks Party was officially registered on July 6 and will field candidates for the Senate in NSW, Victoria and Western Australia.

At the time of writing, the Wikileaks Party was going through the usual internal disruptions that parliamentary elections seem to trigger over the allocation of preferences.

This participation in the electoral process will not bring about any major change. The staged political system will remain.

This does not mean that there is not a good side to it.

There is an opportunity to use the electoral process as a platform to

expose the politicians and political institutions of the system and to assist Australia's working people to deepen their understanding and prepare them to take on the urgent task of working out an alternative.

WikiLeaks can be part of this.

At the same time, the longer term need to organise the fighting capacity of the Australian people on the ground, under working class leadership, remains the most important task by far.

This takes us past any immediate election process and focusses instead on the real politics that is outside parliament, where power largely resides in the networks embracing the big, mainly multinational corporations (including the capitalist media), and the leading circles in the military and diplomatic spheres.

CPA (M-L) leaflet: A Real Solution Must Be Found!

This leaflet was handed out to GMH workers at the Elizabeth plant in South Australia.

Holden is a major icon of Elizabeth and South Australia. It is a much-loved local car that many Australians identify with.

However, no solution yet put forward in relation to GMH has really addressed the future for workers at the plant.

Both “voluntary separations” and the spectre of closure threaten to scatter a skilled workforce to the winds.

This must not happen.

But neither should an ailing industrial dinosaur ask its workforce to make huge sacrifices for “guarantees” that cannot be trusted.

We must seek a solution that goes beyond what the employer and politicians deem to be acceptable.

There is nothing wrong – in fact, there’s everything right – in workers advancing their own independent agenda with the support of the broader community.

Corporate Blackmail

GMH has blackmailed successive state and federal governments to get one financial rescue package after another, with the threat of closing its Australian operations – as other multinationals like Chrysler and Mitsubishi did before them. And finally, inevitably, Mitsubishi didn’t get enough – and abandoned South Australia anyway. Who’s betting GMH will do any different?

Meanwhile, after having been promised \$275 million dollars by the SA, Victorian and Federal governments, Holden has demanded a doubling of government investment in building its next generation **Holden Commodore** and **Holden Cruze** here, otherwise it will close its local manufacturing



operations in 2016. That’s another quarter of a billion dollars ransom.

It has also attacked its workforce on previous occasions, cutting out shifts and reducing workers to a four day week. It has cut 400 job cuts at Elizabeth and 100 at its Port Melbourne engineering plant.

Recently it sought a direct wage cut of up to \$200 per week. Now it demands a three year wage freeze, cuts to shifts, overtime rates and leave provisions.

What that amounts to is, move your wages and conditions downwards towards those of the lower-wage countries, or we move there anyway. It is simply outrageous that one of the biggest corporations in the world can make demands of this nature. It is clearly past its use-by-date as a global entity as its US government rescue packages and its closure of plants such as the GM Opel plant in Bochum, Germany with 3000 job losses, announced in April, show.

This was followed, at the start of August by the closure of its Opel Australia distribution arm. Prior to that, South Korean brand Daewoo, also owned by General Motors, was killed off locally.

WA – Revenue shortfall leads to budget cuts

-Contributed-

Western Australian Premier Colin Barnett has been forced into an embarrassing backdown after one of his Budget cuts angered large sections of the community.

Some 75,000 households had solar power panels installed under an agreement that a feed-in tariff of 40 cents per unit of electricity would be maintained for a decade.

Only five months into its new term of office, the WA government has been faced with a revenue shortfall, in response to which it announced that it would halve the feedback tariff. It was a

reminder to Western Australians that no political party has a monopoly on the parliamentary practice of the broken promise.

Four days after the announced cut, and on the same day that Treasurer Troy Buswell had said that the cuts would not be reversed, they were. It was a reminder to Western Australians that no political party has a monopoly on the parliamentary backflip.

Other Budget measures included slashing the private car registration concession, imposing a \$4000 fee on children of Section 457 workers attending public schools, and cutting \$6.8 billion in staff salaries and services

GMH is in crisis, a crisis of over-production and a crisis of capital investment and production costs. It treats its workers as one more just-in-time production component, laying off and hiring workers according to the anarchic whims of the market.

The Alternative – Nationalise and Plan for Australia’s Future Needs

The only answer to the problems besetting the manufacture of vehicles in Australia is to nationalise without compensation the entire industry and rationalise and plan its production to the needs of the market.

If General Motors pulls the pin, plant and equipment should stay here.

Workers, who have more than paid for the cost to General Motors of plant and equipment through the millions of dollars profits from Australian workers shipped back to the USA since General Motors-Holden Ltd was formed in 1931, should also stay here!

Let the millions of tax-payer dollars earmarked to ensure the flow of profits to shareholders in Detroit be used to create a network of advanced manufacturing and research centres

from the WA public sector.

The education budget was slashed by \$282 million at the same time that funds were directed to encouraging the privatisation of schooling.

WA’s so-called “independent” public schools would be expanded at a cost of \$18.2 million and this despite the fact that research has not shown that they have improved student learning outcomes. Funds for expansion of buildings in private schools have been doubled, yet funding for TAFE has been cut.

It looks like the state that has been riding on the top of the iron ore train is heading for derailment.

based around Elizabeth, Fishermans Bend and the Ford plant at Geelong. This can be done!

What do urban Australians need in the way of a small, green energy car?

Build it to meet that need.

What do Australian primary producers and urban tradespeople need in the way of a utility vehicle?

Build it to meet that need.

What vehicles are required for better public transport?

Design and build trains, trams and buses to meet that need.

What can be done with these big manufacturing facilities in the way of research and development for advanced manufacturing capacity?

Provide the funds and unleash the creativity of the workers both manual and intellectual.

What can be done for the workers?

Give them the responsibility to control the process and intensity of production, and to determine the social purposes to which their surplus value (profit) is put instead of seeing it disappear overseas.

Economic and political independence for Australia

Of course, to follow this alternative, Australian workers need to mount a decisive campaign through unions and community organisations for *their* own independent agenda.

The grand vision of a genuinely independent Australia based around the needs of its working people must be brought to realisation, and an advanced manufacturing base under government protection will be a central component of *our* Australia!

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